

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 11, 2005 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 11-13, and 22; and objects to Claims 3-10 and 14-21. Applicants amend Claims 1, 4, 12, and 15. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were necessary as a result of any cited art. Applicants cancel Claims 3 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,050,230 issued to Jones et al. ("*Jones*"). The Examiner rejects Claims 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jones* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,305,131 issued to Best ("*Best*"). The Examiner states that Claims 3-10 and 14-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants amend Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 3 and any intervening claims, and Applicants amend Claim 12 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 14 and any intervening claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-2, 4-13, and 15-22.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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